

Sept. 18, 2013

*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

### Authorization of force: nuclear threat trumps chemical (Rep. Franks)

The Syria discussion of recent weeks has only highlighted this region's instability, and we must take a moment to recognize the threat of a nuclear-capable Iran. The U.S. must develop a foreign policies which enable **proactive** engagement rather than reactionary crisis response. In a world of terrorists and extremists, we ignore these risks at our peril. We simply cannot afford to have nuclear weapons become the IED or car bomb of tomorrow. Neither our country, nor our conscience, can bear the costs of inaction.

That is why in the coming days, I plan to introduce a resolution to authorize the use of military force in Iran.

What we're talking about here could be a targeted, limited, but consequential action that will reinforce the prohibition against illegal nuclear weapons development. We're talking about actions that will degrade Iran's capacity to use these weapons and ensure they do not proliferate.

With this authorization, the President will simply have the power to make sure that the United States of America means what we say.

Colleagues, you might have already noticed, but I just borrowed some of Secretary Kerry's recent justification for attacking Assad's regime. In the last few paragraphs, I merely inserted nuclear every time he said chemical, and inserted Iran in place of Syria. *If this is a line of reasoning the administration chooses to stand behind, we then simply **cannot refute** the parallel argument for Iran, which poses an **immediate** and **severe** threat to the United States.*

Rather than merely dissecting the mammoth failures of the Obama foreign policies, I believe it is necessary to focus on what we can do **now**, from this day forward. This is significant: we **MUST** proactively address these dangerous situations before they escalate to a crisis point. This administration could have implemented strong sanctions or precise military pressure on Assad months ago, when it



*Officials in Israel say Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet with President Obama in Washington on Sept. 30, with Iran at the top of the agenda.*

might have made a vast difference. However, President Obama and his Administration failed to act.

Let me be clear on this point: I borrowed Secretary Kerry's words for the beginning of this article to emphasize that we cannot accept the Administration's reasons for punishing chemical weapons usage, then employ a **different** decision matrix for the nuclear threat. A nuclear-capable Iran is an **exponentially greater** threat than a chemically-armed Syria. At what point will President Obama and his staff recognize the risks of not acting in the face of flagrant nuclear development violations in Iran? The time to act -- and the time to regain our credibility with our allies in this region -- is now, before the situation devolves into a Syria-like situation - frantically searching for solutions after the crisis has begun.

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### Tragic Loss at Navy Yard (Rep. Fleming)

On Monday, just blocks away from the United States Capitol, 13 of our fellow Americans lost their lives in an act of violence at the Washington Navy Yard. Inevitably, many Americans are asking how this disaster happened. Monday's incident is sure to raise renewed interest in security procedures at U.S. military installations. A yet-to-be-released

Department of Defense Inspector General (IG) report indicates that installations have been implementing

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*"Tragic Loss at Navy Yard" - Rep. Fleming*

unproven access-control systems in order to cut costs. At least 52 "convicted felons received routine unauthorized installation access" in recent years, according to the IG audit. The suspected gunman, Aaron Alexis, entered the Navy Yard facility using a common access card, which according to news reports, did not belong to him.

While these and other important questions remain to be asked, it behooves us to remember the sacrifices that are made on behalf of defending the homeland. In what is yet another tragedy caused by a lone gunman, we must be sure to keep the dead in our memories and their families and injured colleagues in our prayers. A dark cloud still hangs over our nation's capitol, though we ought to be grateful to our brave police officers, investigators, first responders, and men and women in the U.S. military who helped to prevent further loss of life. I am proud to serve on the House Armed



*Emergency responders on the scene at the Navy Yard, Sept. 16.*

Services Committee and the RSC National Security Working Group in order to promote a robust defense that protects the American people.

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*Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office. Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to: Jackie Rivera, [Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov) or 6-0678*